



# PRESS RELEASE

*Office of the United States Attorney  
Middle District of Florida*

**PAUL I. PEREZ**  
**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

400 North Tampa Street  
Suite 3200  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
813/274-6000  
813/274-6300 (Fax)

Post Office Box 600  
200 West Forsyth Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32201  
904/232-2682  
904/232-2620 (Fax)

80 North Hughey Avenue,  
Room 201  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
407/648-7500  
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,  
Suite 3-137  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901  
239/461-2200  
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

**For Immediate Release**

June 24, 2002

## **TAMPA MAN SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS FOR INTERNET SEX CRIME**

Orlando, Florida – On June 24, 2002, United States District Court Judge Patricia C. Fawcett sentenced Jeffrey T. Horwath, age 39, of Tampa, Florida, to thirty-six months in prison, followed by two years of supervised release, and a special assessment of \$100, for enticing a minor into sexual activity by use of a computer. Previously, he pleaded guilty to the charge.

Evidence presented in court demonstrated that in October 2001 Horwath went online and began an exchange with an individual who stated she was fourteen years old and lived in Orlando. In fact, the person Horwath was communicating with was a male agent on a special task force posing as the young girl in a sting operation run by the Orlando office of the FBI. Horwath said he wanted to have sex with the young girl, and he was very explicit in what he told her. The agent repeatedly told Horwath that “she” was fourteen years old. During numerous exchanges in the chat room and via email over the next three months, Horwath proposed that the two should get together in a hotel room to

have sex. In January 2002, a rendezvous was arranged at the K-Mart on East Colonial Avenue. On January 21, 2002, Horwath rented a room at a nearby motel and drove to the K-Mart. He was apprehended in the parking lot by task force agents.

The case was investigated by local police and FBI Agents assigned to the "Innocent Images" Task Force. The case was prosecuted in the Orlando Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida by Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Bruce S. Ambrose and former AUSA Scott J. Stein.

/////